

AN ACT

relating to the combination of certain election precincts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section [42.0051](#), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 42.0051. COMBINING CERTAIN PRECINCTS. (a) If changes in county election precinct boundaries to give effect to a redistricting plan result in county election precincts with fewer than 3,000 registered voters, a commissioners court for a general or special election, or for a primary election the county executive committee of a political party conducting a primary election, may combine county election precincts notwithstanding Section [42.005](#) to avoid unreasonable expenditures for election equipment, supplies, and personnel ~~[This section applies only to a county with a population of less than 1.2 million that does not participate in the countywide polling place program described by Section [43.007](#)].~~

(b) A combined precinct under Subsection (a) is subject to the maximum population prescribed for a precinct under Section [42.006](#).

(c) [(a-1)] In a county that does not participate in the countywide polling place program described by Section [43.007](#), for a general or special election for which use of county election precincts is required, the commissioner's court [may,] on the recommendation of the county election board, or for a primary

1 election for which use of county election precincts is required,
2 the county executive committee of a political party conducting the
3 primary election, may combine county election precincts
4 notwithstanding Section 42.005 if:

5 (1) the commissioners court cannot secure a suitable
6 polling place location under Section 43.031; and

7 (2) the location of the combined polling place
8 adequately serves the voters of the combined precinct.

9 (d) [(c)] A combined precinct under Subsection (c) [this
10 section] may not contain more than 10,000 registered voters.

11 (e) [(d)] A combined precinct may not be established if it:

12 (1) results in a dilution of voting strength of a group
13 covered by the federal Voting Rights Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1973c et
14 seq.);

15 (2) results in a dilution of representation of a group
16 covered by the Voting Rights Act in any political or electoral
17 process or procedure; or

18 (3) results in discouraging participation by a group
19 covered by the Voting Rights Act in any political or electoral
20 process or procedure because of the location of a polling place or
21 other factors.

22 (f) For the purposes of appointing a presiding election judge
23 and an alternate presiding judge to a county election precinct
24 combined under this section, the combined precinct shall be
25 considered a single precinct and the judges shall be appointed in
26 accordance with the procedures provided under Chapter 32.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 985 passed the Senate on April 2, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 12, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 985 passed the House, with amendment, on May 7, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 94, Nays 52, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor